



Bitterroot National Forest

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WILDFIRE UPDATE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bitterroot NF Fire Update

HAMILTON, MT; AUGUST 14, 2007 PM.

The **Rombo** fire displayed extreme fire behavior yesterday, burning in steep rugged terrain. The fire grew to 5500 acres. Rombo is being managed by Larry Svalberg's Type II team. Information regarding the fire can be accessed by visiting www.inciweb.org or by calling the Rombo Fire Information Team at 406-821-0082.

The **Tin Cup** Fire directly west of Darby grew to 608 acres and is 100% contained. Approximately 60 firefighters and equipment operators remain on this fire. In an effort to be fully prepared for Thursday's significant wind events, the crews have completed mop-up around the full perimeter of the fire at least 300-500 feet into the interior of the burned area, and further into the burned area where warranted. Crews have completed approximately 80% of the rehabilitation of the hand and dozer lines, which includes bringing woody slash onto the disturbed soils and creating water bars. Both efforts are made to reduce soil runoff. NOTE new information phone number: For further updates regarding the Tin Cup fire, please call the Darby Ranger District at 406-821-3913 or the Bitterroot NF's office at 406-363-7176.

The **Saddle Mountain** Fire started on Sunday, August 12th and is approximately 3 acres in size. It is burning in an area surrounded by burns from 2000 and contains numerous snags that make ground-based firefighting very dangerous.

Wildland Fire Use Fires: Many of the 15 wildland fire use fires burned actively over the weekend. Of particular note, the Elk Horn Ridge fire is burning closer to the Magruder Road Corridor. Firefighters are posted along the road to monitor and control traffic if the fire creates hazardous for travelers; note that traffic delays may result in the Magruder Station to Kim Creek Saddle area. Other firefighters are at Paradise doing structure protection. Information on these wildland fire use fires can be obtained by calling the West Fork Ranger 821-3269.

Bitterroot Dispatcher Kelly Forthofer provided a brief summary of how this fire season compares to recent past seasons in terms of number of fires and acres burned.

Year	Total Fires	Lightning Caused	Human Caused	Wildland Fire Use	Project Fires
2003	103	94	9	10	Gold One: 8296 ac Big Creek: 1350 ac Frog Pond: 2082 ac
2004	107	87	20	17	Capri: 155 acres
2005	145	127	18	53	Rock 'In: 6869 ac Bare Castle: 120 ac CB Ranch: 1708 ac Signal Rock: 13,327 ac
2006	111	74	37	26	Gash Creek: 8784 ac Shook Up: 60 ac
2007 to date	93	82	11	15	Tin Cup: 608 ac Rombo: 5500 ac

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